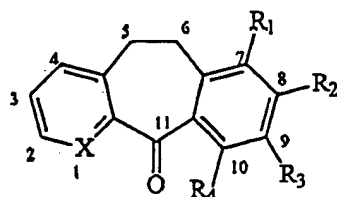


CLAIMS

Sub B2
1. A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or an aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium wherein said low valent titanium is generated by zinc.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof is of formula I:



(wherein:

X denotes nitrogen or CH;
and R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ which may be the same or different independently denote hydrogen or a halogen).

3. A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein R² is a halogen.

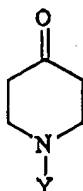
4. A process as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein R¹, R³ and R⁴ denote hydrogen.

5. A process as claimed in any of claims 2, 3 or 4 wherein X is nitrogen.

6. A process as claimed in any preceding claim in which the aliphatic ketone is cyclic.

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8. A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein said piperidone is of formula II:



(wherein:

Y denotes hydrogen, lower alkyl, CO_2R^5 , SO_2R^5 , $\text{CON}(\text{R}^5)_2$, $\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^5)_2$, CO_2COR^5 or a N-protecting group; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, a C₁₋₁₂-alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more amino or C₁₋₆-alkylamino groups, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or more halo or C₁₋₆-alkyl groups, a C₇₋₁₂-phenylalkyl group optionally substituted at the phenyl by one or more halo or C₁₋₆-alkyl groups, 2-piperidyl, 3-piperidyl or piperidyl substituted at the nitrogen atom by a C₁₋₄-alkyl group) and the salts thereof.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein Y is CO₂Et.

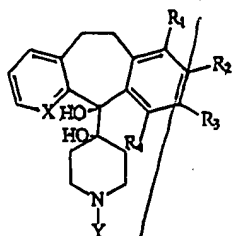
10. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein Ti is present in a molar ratio range 1.5:1 to 4:1 relative to the dibenzosuberone.

11. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein Ti is present in a molar ratio range 2:1 to 3:1 relative to the dibenzosuberone.

12. A process as claimed in any preceding claim comprising the preparation of an intermediate diol of

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formula III:



(III)

10 (wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and X are as defined in claim 2
and Y is as defined in claim 8).

13. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein
15 said low valent titanium consists essentially of Ti(II).

14. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein
low valent titanium is prepared *in situ*.

15. A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein low valent
20 titanium is prepared by reacting a Ti(III) or Ti(IV)
compound or complex with said zinc.

16. A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein said
25 titanium compound is titanium(III) chloride or
titanium(IV) chloride or a complex thereof.

17. A process as claimed in any preceding claim for
preparing Loratadine.

ADD B3

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